

STATE OF
WASHINGTON
HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
30TH DISTRICT
SKIP PRIEST



EDUCATION
Ranking Member
APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
ON EDUCATION (RANKING MEMBER)
APPROPRIATIONS

December 13, 2007

The Honorable Christine Gregoire
Governor
P.O. Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Governor Gregoire:

Thank you for giving public safety issues, particularly the monitoring and tracking of sex offenders in our communities, a prime spot on your agenda for the 2008 legislative session. I applaud your recent allocation of more than \$8 million to begin the work the Sex Offender Task Force recommended. Making public safety and the protection of children our top priority is a good start to showing the citizens of Washington that lawmakers and state leaders are engaged on the issues they value most.

As you know, many of the final recommendations of the Sex Offender Task Force were common-sense proposals that I, along with my House Republican colleagues, offered to the group for consideration. It's in this same spirit of teamwork and bipartisanship that I request that you consider making the legislation I have drafted for the 2008 session dealing with sex offenders "governor's request" legislation. I have enclosed copies of the legislation for your review and consideration.

When I met with you and the family of Zina Linnik, my hope was that you would seize the urgency the family feels – in their grief all they want is to make sure that other children are safe, not just in their community but statewide. This is why I am extending to you the opportunity to join me and others in the House to enact critical reforms that update our sex offender laws and add enhanced protection for Washington families.

As you know, my proposals were not created in a vacuum. I worked with law enforcement, prosecutors, victims' advocates and community leaders, to develop specific policy proposals that are summarized on the attached sheet. And, as I mentioned above, working with your Sex Offender Task Force, many the common-sense proposals were adopted by the group for the final report.

The Legislature cannot ignore the prevalence of crimes committed by sex offenders and the inability to reliably monitor and track sex predators. This issue demands our full attention now and when the Legislature convenes in January. I believe my proposals offer effective and reasonable solutions, and that is why I am presenting them to you for your consideration and support.

I remain committed to working with you to take swift action on this pressing public safety matter. I am prepared to offer my assistance to move these proposals through the legislative process quickly and in a bipartisan manner.

Thank you again for your efforts to work toward enacting these thoughtful and practical solutions to update our laws to better monitor, track and hold accountable sex offenders released into our communities.

I look forward to your response to this request. If you would like more information or you have questions about the legislation, please feel free to contact me on my cell at (206) 510-7810.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Skip Priest", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Skip Priest
Washington State Representative

Encl.

Cc: Marty Brown, Legislative Director
Laurie Dolan, Policy Office Director
John Lane, Executive Policy Office